Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-28. (Canceled)

29. (New) A method of potentiating the hypnotic effect of at least one compound selected from the group consisting of non-barbiturate and non-benzodiazepine hypnotic compounds in a human in need thereof which comprises administering melatonin in combination with said hypnotic compound in an amount effective to potentiate said compound's hypnotic effect.

30. (New) The method of claim 29, in which said melatonin and said hypnotic compound are administered in a single pharmaceutical formulation.

31. (New) The method of claim 30, which is further characterized by at least one of the following features:

(a) said hypnotics are GABA-A receptor modulators;

(b) said hypnotics are compounds which include a fused-ring system containing ring nitrogen;

(c) said formulation comprises at least one carrier, diluent, coating or adjuvant;

(d) said formulation is in unit dosage form;

(e) said formulation includes at least one compound selected from the group consisting of non-barbiturate and non-benzodiazepine hypnotics;

(f) said at least one compound is present in said medicament and in an amount which, if administered in absence of melatonin, would be a sub-therapeutic amount;

(g) said formulation is adapted for sustained release of melatonin.

32. (New) The method of claim 31, wherein said formulation includes at least one acrylic resin and is adapted for sustained release of melatonin.

33. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein said formulation is further adapted for regular release of said at least one compound.

34. (New) The method of claim 29, 30 or 31, wherein said at least one compound comprises a bicyclic fused ring system.

35. (New) The method of claim 34, wherein said bicyclic fused ring system includes at least two ring nitrogen atoms.

36. (New) The method of claim 35, wherein said bicyclic ring system comprises a pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidine, imidazo[1,2,-a]pyridine, pyrrolo[3,4-b]pyrazine or triazolo[4,3-a]-pyridine skeleton.

37. (New) The method of claim 36, wherein said at least one hypnotic compound is selected from the group consisting of zaleplon, zolpidem, zopiclone and trazodone.

38. (New) A pharmaceutical formulation which, in addition to at least one carrier, diluent, coating or adjuvant, comprises the following active ingredients:
at least one compound selected from the group consisting of non-barbiturate and non-benzodiazepine hypnotics, and melatonin in an amount and form effective for short term potentiation of the hypnotic effect of said at least one compound.

39. (New) The pharmaceutical formulation of claim 38, which is further characterized by at least one of the following features:

(a) said hypnotics are GABA-A receptor modulators;

(b) said hypnotics are compounds which include a fused-ring system containing ring nitrogen;

(c) said formulation is in unit dosage form;

(d) said at least one compound is present in said formulation in an amount which, if administered in absence of melatonin, would be a sub-therapeutic amount;

(e) said formulation is adapted for sustained release of melatonin.

40. (New) The pharmaceutical formulation of claim 39, which includes at least one acrylic resin and is adapted for sustained release of melatonin.

41. (New) The pharmaceutical formulation of claim 40, which is further adapted for regular release of said at least one compound.

42. (New) The pharmaceutical formulation of claim 39 or 40, wherein said non-barbiturate and non-benzodiazepine hypnotics comprises a compound in which said fused ring system is a bicyclic ring system.

43. (New) The pharmaceutical formulation of claim 42, wherein said bicyclic ring system includes at least two ring nitrogen atoms.

44. (New) The pharmaceutical formulation of claim 43, wherein said bicyclic ring system comprises a pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidine, imidazo[1,2,-a]pyridine, pyrrolo[3,4-b]pyrazine or triazolo[4,3-a]-pyridine skeleton.

45. (New) The pharmaceutical formulation of claim 44, wherein said at least one hypnotic is selected from zaleplon, zolpidem, zopiclone and trazodone.

46. (New) A method of decreasing the dose of a non-barbiturate or non-benzodiazepine hypnotic compound administered to a person in need of said hypnotic compound without lessening said compound's desired hypnotic effect which comprises administering to said person melatonin in combination with a lower dose of said agent, wherein said melatonin is administered in an amount effective to potentiate the hypnotic effect of said compound such that said desired hypnotic effect is achieved.

47. (New) A method of lessening the risk of the development of tolerance to or dependence on a non-barbiturate or non-benzodiazepine hypnotic compound in a person administered said compound which comprises administering to said person melatonin in combination with said hypnotic compound, wherein said melatonin is administered in an amount sufficient to potentiate hypnotic effects of said compound such that a desired hypnotic effect can be obtained with a lower dose of said compound than if said compound was administered in the absence of said melatonin.